

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 090741Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5124

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 2556

USIAC

FOR: IOP/M, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE CNA-WASHINGTON QUOTING NESSEN, OTHER SOURCES THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S MAY 6 REMARKS REAFFIRMING ROC COMMITMENTS WERE INTENTIONAL AND CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BEFOREHAND. OFFICIAL PAPERS EDITORIALY HAILED REAFFIRMATION AND URGED U.S. REACT STRONGLY ANY NEW COMMUNIST EXPANSION IN AREA. KMT'S CENTRAL DAILY NEWS HOWEVER ADVISED LOCAL POPULACE HOLD FAST ESTABLISHED POLICY REGARDLESS OUTSIDE PROMISES. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL NEWSPAPERS FRONTPAGED CNA-WASHINGTON: (1) QUOTING WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN NESSEN SAYING PRESIDENT FORD'S MAY 6 REMARKS REAFFIRMING ROC COMMITMENTS WERE INTENTIONAL, (2) WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS REPORTED QUOTING UNNAMED U.S. OFFICIAL SAYING WORDING WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BEFOREHAND, (3) WASHINGTON POST REPORTEDLY NOTING STRENGTH OF FORD STATEMENT.

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3. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (220,000), KMT-OWNED CHINA DAILY NEWS (80,000) AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S NEW LIFE DAILY NEWS (60,000) ALL EDITORIALY HAILED FORD REAFFIRMING COMMITMENTS NOT ONLY ROC BUT ALSO OTHER ASIAN ALLIES. PAPERS NOTED PARTICULAR OF THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES OVER RELIABILITY U.S. COMMITMENTS FOLLOWING FAILURE NIXON'S DETENTE POLICIES. PAPERS URGED U.S. REACT STRONGLY AGAINST ANY NEW COMMUNIST EXPANSION IN AREA. HOWEVER, CENTRAL DAILY NEWS SPECIFICALLY URGED LOCAL POPULACE HOLD FAST TO ESTABLISHED POLICY REGARDLESS OUTSIDE PROMISES OR ABSENCE THEREOF.

4. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES (280,000) AND LEADING UNITED DAILY NEWS (320,000) DIDN'T COMMENT EDITORIALY BUT TIMES CARRIED REUTER-WASHINGTON REPORT QUOTING WASHINGTON OBSERVERS SAYING FORD'S REAFFIRMATION ROC COMMITMENTS COULD COMPLICATE U.S.-PRC DETENTE EFFORTS AND HIS PLANNED CHINA VISIT.

5. TA HUA EVENING NEWS (60,000) SAW ENCOURAGING SIGNS EMERGING NEW U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF "THE ENEMY" EVIDENCED FORD'S USE TERM "POTENTIAL ADVERSARY." PAPER SAID NIXON DOCTRINE PREVIOUSLY BLURRED U.S. IDEOLOGICAL PERCEPTIONS BETWEEN FRIENDS AND FOES AND CREATED ILLUSIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING U.S. ENEMIES. FORD SHOULD NOW VISIT ROC, ROK, JAPAN, PHILIPPINES FOR FRANK TALKS ON ANTICOMMUNIST STRATEGY AND AREA MORALE-BUILDING. ALSO, U.S. CONGRESS SHOULD FORM UNIFIED FRONT WITH WHITE HOUSE, UNDERSTANDING THAT DEEDS INSTEAD MERE WORDS WILL CONVINCE FREE WORLD, PARTICULARLY FREE ASIA.  
CLARKE

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